

ZIMIAMVIA

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ZIMIAMVIA is an occasional, irregular, and possibly one-shot publication of the North American Variant Bank devoted to problems or situations not subsumable within our regular publication, ARDA. It is edited and published by the Custodian of NAVB-West, Rod Walker, at "Alcala", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024. Subscriptions are not available. Interested parties may obtain a copy of this issue for 25¢. This is Pandemonium Publication #711.

M I L L E R N U M B E R S ?

That's the subject of this (first?) issue of ZIMIAMVIA. It (the issue) is being sent to all GMs known to me to be running variant Diplomacy games, or believed by me to be doing so, or suspected or rumored in that area, or possibly interested, or whatever.

My initial mailing list includes the following 'zines: BUSHWACKER, BYRNE SYNDROME, CONQUEST, THE DRAGON AND THE LAMB, DREADNOUGHT, EMHAIN MACHA, ENVOY, FIELD OF FIRES, HOME OFFICE, INVASION, ITALIANO PRIBE, JIHAD, MURD'RING MINISTERS, PROSPECTUS, REBUS SIC STANTIBUS, ST.GEORGE, SHATTO'S FOLLY, VOLKERWANDRUNG, CAMELEON A BINOCULAIRE, RUNESTONE, TEL AMIFER'S JOURNAL, WHITESTONIA, LIFE OF MONTY, ENVOY, and TORPEDO. That's everybody in North America I believe would be involved in getting Miller Numbers for variant Diplomacy games. If you know anybody else this should go to (that is, another variant Dipzine), please let me know. Copies will also go to the Hobby Archivist (Scott Marley), Jerry Jones, and Mark Berch.

I have heard from Fred Davis, Glenn Overby, and perhaps others whom I don't recall at the moment, that Greg Costikyan has not been sending out Miller Number assignments since before the end of last year. He also seems to be dropping out of games. It would appear, therefore, that Greg may be dropping out as MN Custodian without naming a successor. It would also appear that the automatic succession rules I had understood existed have not operated. I have written to Greg about this and requested a reply by the end of April.

If I have not heard from Greg by that time, I will assume that he has dropped and no successor has been named. I will, at that time, assign Miller Numbers to all Diplomacy variants then known to me which need them. I will also assume the position of Miller Number Custodian pro tempore and will continue in that post until and unless a more satisfactory resolution of the vacancy can be achieved.

In this regard, I will need your help and cooperation. I will need from you a list of all variant Diplomacy games for which no Miller Numbers have yet been assigned and for which you are the GM and/or publisher. Please include in this list the exact designation for each game plus a list of the players and their country assignments (starting players, please; also indicate any player changes which may have occurred since the game began).

If this changeover of Custodianship occurs, I will begin publishing all MNs in the NAVB's official 'zine, ARDA. I hope that you will be willing to trade your 'zine for ARDA so that I may remain current on the progress of all variant games. Final game results will also appear in ARDA. MNs, by the way, will be assigned under the "new" system which Greg had intended to institute prior to 1 January 1981.

The "Diplomacy variant" status of several sorts of games is dubious. I am not sure whether any commercially produced game which happens to have Diplomacy-like rules (KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI, &c.) really counts. PARLEMENT is definitely not a Diplomacy variant. We'll just have to see as we go on others.

Even if you do not need Miller Numbers at this time for any of your games, please contact me. I would like to know what you think on this problem. Furthermore, I will need to be in communication with all variant 'zines in order to insure that final game results get published.

Sincerely,


Rod Walker